

Message Text

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44

ACTION FBO-05

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R 191115Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8772

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, ASEC

SUBJ: ANTI-TERRORISM - STATUS OF CHANCERY REPAIRS

FOR FBO AND SY FROM STANGE

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY EMBASSY, ALL WINDOWS ON GROUND FLOOR CONSULAR SECTION FACING QUEEN SOPHIAS BLVD AND CORNER OF CHANCERY WERE DESTROYED IN THE RECENT DEMONSTRATION. LARGE SECTIONS OF THE SUN SCREEN FACING THE BOULEVARD WERE ALSO DESTROYED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS USING CROWBARS. IN ADDITION, NUMEROUS UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS WERE DAMAGED BUT MYLAR APPLICATION PREVENTED SHATTERING. EMBASSY HAS ERECTED TEMPORARY PLYWOOD SCREEN FOR GROUND FLOOR COVERING BOTH WINDOWS AND SUN SCREEN ALONG ENTIRE LENGTH OF BUILDING FACING BOULEVARD AND CORNER.

2. THE TEMPORARY PLYWOOD COVERING PROVIDES ADEQUATE PROTECTION BUT AS RESULT THE CONSULAR OFFICES ARE DARK AND DISMAL WITH THE BROKEN WINDOWS AND SUN SCREENS FULLY EXPOSED FROM THE INTERIOR. NET RESULT IS A VERY DEMORALIZING CONDITION WHICH REQUIRES PROMPT ACTION TO CORRECT.

3. GOG HAS OFFERED TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES AND EMBASSY HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUING THIS ASPECT. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT ONLY COST OF REPLACEMENTS IN KIND SHOULD BE CHARGED TO GOG. I CONCUR IN THIS APPROACH.

4. EMBASSY WAS HESITANT ON PROCEEDING TO REPLACE THE DAMAGED
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WINDOWS AND SUN SCREEN IN KIND BECAUSE OF THEIR DEMONSTRATED

SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DESTRUCTION. VARIOUS CHANGES IN SPECIFICATIONS AND DESIGN WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT WOULD HAVE RESULTED FURTHER DELAYS IN CORRECTING SITUATION. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND RSO, EMBASSY NOW PLANS PROCEED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PROMPTLY REPLACE ALL DAMAGED WINDOWS IN KIND AND INSTALL MYLAR.

(B) AFTER GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS ARE REPLACED, THE PLYWOOD COVERING IN ONLY THOSE AREAS WHERE THE SUN SCREEN WAS NOT DESTROYED WILL BE REMOVED. BALANCE OF PLYWOOD COVERING WILL REMAIN IN PLACE AS TEMPORARY PROTECTION.

(C) IN ORDER PRESERVE ARCHITECTUAL INTEGRITY OF BUILDING, THE DAMAGED SUN SCREEN WILL BE REPLACED IN KIND. HOWEVER, ANCHORED STEEL GRILL AND/OR LEXON SHEETS AND ADDITIONAL BRACING BARS WILL BE INSTALLED ON INNER SIDE OF ALL SUN SCREENS AROUND BUILDING. THIS WORK WILL COMPLEMENT GRILL EFFECT OF SUN SCREEN WITHOUT DETRATING FROM DESIGN AND WILL PREVENT PIECEMEAL DEMOLITION OR TOPPLING OF THE SUN SCREEN AS HAPPENED IN THE DEMONSTRATION.

(D) SINCE SOURCE OF THE SPECIAL BRICK FOR THE SUN SCREENS IS FROM WEST GERMANY, CONSIDERABLE TIME WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE DELIVERY ON SITE. THIS TIME LAPSE WILL BE USED TO FINALIZE DETAILS ON HOW BEST TO STRENGTHEN THE SUN SCREENS AND TO OBTAIN FBO AND SY APPROVAL ON SPECIFICATIONS AND DESIGN OF IMPROVEMENTS.

5. WITH RESPECT AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE, THE STEEL PLATE ALREADY APPROVED FOR INSTALLATION WILL ONLY COVER FULL HEIGHT TO CEILING IN THE CORNER BEHIND AMBASSADOR'S DESK. WINDOW AREAS WILL ONLY BE COVERED FROM FLOOR TO BOTTOM OF WINDOW SILL. THIS LEAVES LARGE AREA UNPROTECTED AND VULNERABLE. HAVE RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION ALSO BE GIVEN TO INSTALL LEXON OR BULLET PROOF GLASS SCREEN PLACED INSIDE INTERIOR WINDOW FRAME. EXAMINATION OF PRESENT WINDOW FRAME INDICATES IT WILL NOT ACCOMMODATE THICKNESS OF LEXON OR BULLETPROOF GLASS TO REPLACE PRESENT GLASS.

6. EMBASSY WAS UNABLE ARRANGE MEETING DURING MY VISIT WITH PENSION FUND OWNERS OF LOT BEHIND CHANCERY. HOWEVER, THEY WILL ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN ASKING PRICE FOR LEASE OR PURCHASE. EMBASSY HAS BEEN CAUTIONED PRICE MUST BE REASONABLE AND IN LINE GOING LOCAL RATE FOR SIMILAR FACILITIES AND WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIRE LEAD TIME CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND FUNDING.

7. PROCEEDING SOFIA MAY 19.
KUBISCH

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